State	Fall in Water Level
	>4 MTS @ >20 Cm/yr
West Bengal	Bankura, Barddhaman, Medinipur, N-24 Parganas, Purulia.
NCT Delhi	Najafgarh, Mehrauli and City Block.
Union Territory Pondicherry	Pondicherry.

MSP of Arecanut

1765. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that arecanut farmers in Karnataka are saddled with huge unsold stocks of the crop due to steep fall in prices;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no market intervention by Central agencies like NAFED in that State;

(c) whether Karnataka Government concerned with the plight of farmers, have proposed to the Centre for procurement of arecanut at a Minimum Support Price of Rs. 65/- per kg.; and

(d) whether Government have considered the request favourable; if so, the amount per kg. of arecanut fixed by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. Central Government has sanctioned Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of arecanut in Karnataka during 2002-03 for a quantity of 10,000 MTs at the Market Intervention Price of Rs. 60.00 per kg.

Remunerative price for cotton growers

1766. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton growers of various States, including Gujarat are not getting remunerative price for their crop and a large number of farmers are reported to have committed suicide;

(b) if so, the number of such cases during the last two years; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The cotton growers of States are generally getting remunerative prices. Crop-wise Information on suicides is not maintained. However, the Gujarat State cooperative Cotton Federation Ltd. (GUJCOT) have informed that according to their information there have been no report of farmers having committed suicide on this account.

(c) The following steps have been taken:—

(i) To protect the interest of the farmers, the Government announces each year the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of cotton and requires its procurement by the Cotton Corporation of India Limited (CCI) in case market price of Cotton falls or touches MSP. The CCI have informed that in order to stabilize market prices during 2001-02 season a total of 8.99 lakh bales of cotton of 170 kgs. each have been procured in cotton growing States.

(ii) The government has increased the basic import duty on raw cotton from 5 per cent to 10 per cent which is expected discourage cotton imports.

(iii) The Government has also brought export of raw cotton under Open General Licence (OGL). This is expected to help the Indian farmers to fetch better prices for their produce in the international market.

Subsidy to M.P. for kharif crops

†1767. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether drought affected areas in Madhya pradesh have been determined on the basis of Anawari of kharif crops as per the scarcity

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.